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# ENVELOPE SERIES

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## FIVE REASONS WHY

*By*  
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AMERICAN BOARD *of* COMMISSIONERS  
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS · BOSTON · *Mass.*

A QUARTERLY

## Foreword.

It has been a long time since the Board published an *argument* for Missions. Now there is need for a statement expressed in modern terms, illustrated by all the vital facts of the great work of the Board that shall deepen the conviction of thousands of our young people. We write unto three groups of readers.

1. To *Subscribers* of the Envelope Series, because you love the Board and are working for the Kingdom.

2. To the *Stewards* of Missionary Expositions, because the facts are "a reason for the faith that is in you."

3. To *Teachers* and *Committeemen*, because you must vitally interest our young people.

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A NEW SUGGESTION. Form your class or prayer meeting into a Reading Circle for one week. We will send enough copies of this booklet to supply every reader who joins the Circle. After the members have done the reading, give the PROGRAM on page 20.

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ANOTHER IMPORTANT ONE. We urgently *must* enroll a few thousand more subscribers to this Envelope Series at ten cents a year *now*. Please enroll every member of your class, every teacher, committeemen and leading members of your church. Send a dollar bill and the ten names to us. Please don't pass us by. We need your help to enlarge the list. A coin card enclosed means you should send your dime now.

# Five Reasons Why.

## I. Common Fairness.

Let us count our mercies over to find each one of them a proof of the world's need and an argument for our duty to share Christ. Every dear and cherished experience we have known in spiritual living has for its background a moral obligation. If Christ's life is true at all, if the principles He taught are anywhere near the truth, we are under bond to pass on whatever joy, hope, peace and love we have learned. He has taught us unselfishness and its worth. He has put tenderness and out-reaching love into our hearts. He has spoken peace to strife and calm to fear. If all the great moral principles of life such as righteousness, justice, honesty, courage, have been interpreted by His words, then we must want the world to have them too. We did not discover such things or invent them for ourselves. We merely received them from others and they through Christ; and if we accept them and live by them, we admit they are not ends in themselves but only become our possession as we pass them on to others. Did you ever think about a live wire? If it isn't sending that current on to some point of application beyond itself, it is dead even though it is heavily charged, but once that wire is grounded or its current is drawn upon to run a factory or to light a city, straight-way through that living wire pulses power. You and I will never know the great things of spiritual life nor even the highest moral attainment until we have imparted them to others and have recognized our stewardship of these gifts from God's hand.

Just there is a point that appeals to all of us. What made us Christian anyway? What produced civilized Europe and made America possible? Yonder in the forests of Germany or in the little islands west of Europe, our ancestors lived like savages. The bloody rites of the Druids and reeking human sacrifices were "good enough for them" if devil worship is good enough for the Congo now. Somebody at risk of life and with sacrifice pierced the darkness of those forest paths, taught us Christianity, brought education and civilization. Christ was not English, German, Scotch. Our ancestors once were heathen. If this all was brought to us because others knew our need, in *common fairness* have we a right to seize these gifts unto ourselves?

## II. Humanity's Need.

Christian civilization has so much that the un-Christian and the uncivilized need! To find a little girl suffering some slight deformity or disease that any doctor could easily cure and to make her right again, ready for a life of health and happiness is not a spiritual argument exactly, but the heart that is in us reaches out in real joy at the chance of doing this sort of thing. In Japan, only one in a hundred of the population is a member of a Christian church, but fully half of all the works of mercy and relief that are carried on in the entire empire have been inspired from Christian sources. All the work done for the convict, the aged, the insane, the fallen woman, the sick, the orphan, proves that the missionary of Christ can meet the practical needs of humanity wherever he finds them. Whole books have been written,

notably three volumes by Dr. Dennis, to show how missions have touched the whole social fabric and have made everywhere for uplift and progress.

If China brings about a great reform against the use of opium, if India sees the folly of child marriage, or of the atrocities suffered by the widow, if Turkey pronounces a new purpose of equity and justice in place of murder and persecution, if savage African tribes take up the tilling of fields, the laying out of villages, and the practice of justice—all these things have been inspired directly or indirectly through Christian missions.

Wherever Christianity gets a foothold, it brings about deep moral reformation, abolishing torture in the law courts, blotting out foot-binding in China, doing away with the burning of widows and the nautch dancer in India, wiping out head hunter, cannibal, pirate and fanatic murderer. It sweetens home life, uplifts womanhood, destroys ignorance, undermines superstition and brings in its train the whole list of Christian blessings which fall to us in civilized lands. The more we know of the sufferings of humanity in unenlightened nations, the more we are persuaded that Christianity will be the most direct method of destroying that suffering.

The Orient is in transition—swift, fateful, final. It has cast loose from the moorings of its traditions. Its young men are deep in scepticism, atheism and immorality.

All ties of brotherhood and every thought of fair play bid us to share their problems and to meet the heart's needs of millions who will find no other help save in us.

### III. Missionary Achievements.

The man who argues that missions have accomplished nothing; that there are just a few rice-Christians gathered about the missionaries; that no real impress has been made upon the Orient; does not know the facts. Did you ever read that Luther, four hundred years ago, in a moment of discouragement cried, "Another hundred years and it will all be over, and the Word of God will perish from the earth for the want of someone to preach it." You remember that Milne, who was Morrison's assistant a century ago in China, in the farthest outreach of his hope, prophesied that in a century there might be a thousand converts won to Christ in China, and when the century was completed there had been more than a million who had come "out of darkness into His marvellous light."

A century ago, Judson spoke in faith when he urged that the prospects were as bright as the promises of God, but we actually see the thing being done and know that girdling the globe are institutions, awakened communities, devoted worshippers which prove the task successful. Possibly if all such effort was a failure and we had only a handful of converts yonder, there might be some excuse for re-interpreting the commands of Christ and the obligations under which we rest, but the facts are that in *proportion to the investment* Christian missions have won their way more rapidly and with fuller success than any one would have dared to hope. If success is an argument to prove the value and the right of a movement, we need no second word. Glance at some of the results of the work of the American Board.

**Industrial Missions** are the youngest of the types of work. We have only a few men giving their lives to this kind of endeavor, yet their report is that in every land of the East, Christian civilization has a work to do in teaching men to make a better living. It can be done. There is no hopeless element in it. Once it is done, it means a better home, a better equipped life, an outreach into possibility. The great emphasis of our work in Africa is at this point. The negro in Africa needs to learn to do an honest day's work and to enjoy it. The down-drag of three thousand years is against him.

Some time ago, the principal of the Amanzimtoti Seminary in Natal, wanted to find how his graduates were measuring up in the world. He investigated the career of every graduate. Almost without exception, the employer said that the boys were good workers. They could be depended on to do a day's work. They had learned it at the Seminary. Whether in carpentry, brick-making, road-building, or agriculture, the industrial mission really teaches industry.

In India, there are great industrial problems to be solved. English cotton mills have driven hand-weavers into poverty. Mr. Churchill, one of our missionaries, has invented the best hand-loom India ever knew. It produces twice as much cloth as its nearest competitor and is heavily subsidized by the government because of their hope that it will aid the Hindu workmen into a better livelihood. If you could see the wretched work that passes for carpentry in some of those lands, or the old-fashioned methods used by the metal workers, or the hopeless rut into which the farmer has fallen, you

could see the vast future before this branch of work. So long as men scratch fields with sticks, they will reap scanty crops. A fourfold increase in efficiency is possible with modern methods and a few fourfold increases spell progress for a nation. This is the dividend on your dollar invested in industrial missions. Writ large over this whole enterprise, is the motto, "We help them to help themselves."

**Medical Missions** have the most definite appeal to the average American because we say, "That at least is practical." If we could but see how far one dollar goes in relieving suffering; if we could appreciate the tender ministrations, so unknown in all past time, we would approve this work more than ever. We have seventy hospitals and dispensaries abroad. Sixty medical missionaries are giving their full time to this work but they are but a small part of the staff. Each is surrounded by a group of native helpers trained by himself. The number of cases seems almost fabulous. One hospital treats twenty-five thousand cases a year, another forty-six thousand six hundred and fifty-one, and many of them from twelve thousand to fifteen thousand cases. It is a remarkable thing that most of this work becomes self-supporting soon after its organization. The charges are absurdly small and yet the total income is enough to carry on the medical work and to help support the evangelistic work in the vicinity. In a hospital in Turkey, there was once an eight hundred dollar deficit. The doctors journeyed to a nearby city, relieved the sufferings of hundreds and incidentally in a month, there was no deficit.



Has it impressed you that there is no rivalry or competition between doctors there? All day and far into the night he can be busied treating cases *which would never find relief from any other source*. Some of the patients are brought in wheelbarrows for many, many miles by faithful friends and the next doctor may be two hundred miles away over broken roads. Every medical missionary in China has an unbroken field of two millions and a half of possible patients. Can you wonder at the impossibility of his ever touching a fringe of his opportunity? Last year Dr. Kinnear in Foo Chow treated seventy-seven cases for every dollar of aid he received from us. A total of three hundred and fifty thousand cases were treated in all our hospitals at about the same ratio of cost. That makes seventy-seven cases for a dollar. Imagine the value of that cent and a third.

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**Educational Missions.** — The Congregational Churches have always led in their emphasis upon education. We believe that God gave man a mind as well as a soul and that Truth is to be discovered through education, as well as through revelation. Across this land a line of noble colleges for men and women proves our devotion. The same is true in our mission fields. No less than thirty-five colleges and theological seminaries have been planted to train native leaders into Christian character. Famous colleges like the Doshisha, founded in Japan by Neesima or Robert College in Turkey, built up by Cyrus Hamlin have created new national ideals.

Colleges imply schools to feed them and there they are—one thousand five hundred in grand total, each uplifting a village and its district. Can you imagine forty miles of school children, standing hand in hand and every one of them taught and trained into usefulness because the American Board is at work.

Here is one illustration of the results. A missionary writes of an old man in one of his churches who cannot read or write nor even count to ten without numbering on his fingers. But he is a Christian and sent his children to the schools. Today he has three sons who are college graduates; one in business, one in the law, one in the ministry. Christian education achieves that in one generation.

Eliza Agnew trained six hundred girls in her school in Ceylon. Hardly one failed to become a Christian.

Think of the *multiplying power* of this work. Each missionary will have a score of schools under his charge. Each school reaches a score of children from as many

homes. Each home receives strange and new inspiration that destroys superstition and prepares for character. Those children become the leaders in their towns and set up new standards of living, to be followed by their neighbors. Schools pay dividends in souls won for Christ and you are making all that possible.

**Evangelistic Missions.** — All other types of work lead up to the preaching of the Gospel and the founding of churches. This is the Great Objective. It might be argued that Eastern peoples receive our hospitals, schools, industries, but do not want our religion. Such a claim is miles away from the facts if you reckon up the actual results in churches and converts. Do you know that today in all mission lands there is a vast army of one million, seven hundred and sixty thousand church members who have been won to the love of Christ? Remember that they all come out of ignorance and in the face of persecution so that church membership is not a matter of transferring a letter or of accepting an easy belief. Members are tested more earnestly than in America. Some times they are kept waiting a full year to prove their faith and faithfulness. Often they must prove their earnestness by winning family or neighbors before they are admitted. Large numbers have been disinherited, cast out from their homes, deserted by friends, jeered in the streets because of their conversion. Sixteen thousand suffered death in the Boxer riots because they would not deny Christ. In one of our churches in Turkey, seven girls who feared they might not have courage to stand the persecution and torture that awaited them at the hands of Turkish soldiers, braided their hair to-

gether, that none should fail and met death together. Thousands of our own brethren were slaughtered only two years ago in Adana, Turkey, just because they were Christians.

Are they "rice Christians," professing Christ for what they may *gain*? Does it not stir you to think that we have only helps and inspiration to spur us on in this land while yonder it means trial and tribulation to be a Christian? It makes me feel as though we all owed a heavy debt to our distant friends and that our prayers should strengthen them daily, while we share by sacrifice their burdens.

While we gather in our churches to worship, think of the nearly six hundred churches worshipping with us in our twenty missions and of the seventy-five thousand members who prove absolutely that Christ meant to gather the children of His Kingdom from every land. Your missionaries translated the Bible into their tongues. Your missionaries preached the Good Tidings to their villages. Your missionaries raised up leaders who are now the pastors of those churches. The Bible brings the selfsame comfort and strength to them as it does to us. Who can ever doubt that such work pays!

Nearly five thousand native teachers and pastors are leading their communities in this work. Last year, your native churches gave over a quarter of a million dollars to build up their own schools and churches. Does that look as though it was all being *forced* on unwilling people who would prefer to be let alone.

## IV. The Reflex Power.

Then there is another familiar point tremendous in its force. Have you ever thought deeply upon the causes that made Christianity so strong in its early days? Sometimes we wonder at the devoted loyalty of our Pilgrim Fathers, of the Covenanters, the Waldensians, the Huguenots, and others who have eagerly suffered even to death for their principles and we must contrast them with the modern Christian, with his tiny prayer meetings, with the lack of willing Sunday-school teachers, with the half emptied churches, and we wonder where we are drifting. Christianity is strong only when there is work to do. If some persecution of American Protestantism should spring up, straightway lethargy and indifference would fall away. No one doubts that there is latent in New England, in Illinois, in Oregon, heroic qualities as in olden times. Our American Christianity needs a gigantic task to save it from the dry rot of ease and comfort. As martyrdom vitalized and galvanized the church in Rome; as the Boxer massacres put iron into the blood of Chinese Christians; as persecution in Turkey produced a character that must some day blossom into rich fruitfulness, so every individual, every church,—nay, more—American Christianity itself can thrive on nothing less than **WORLD CONQUEST**.

“As ye sow, so ye shall reap.”

“There is that scattereth and yet increaseth.”

## V. Loyalty to Christ.

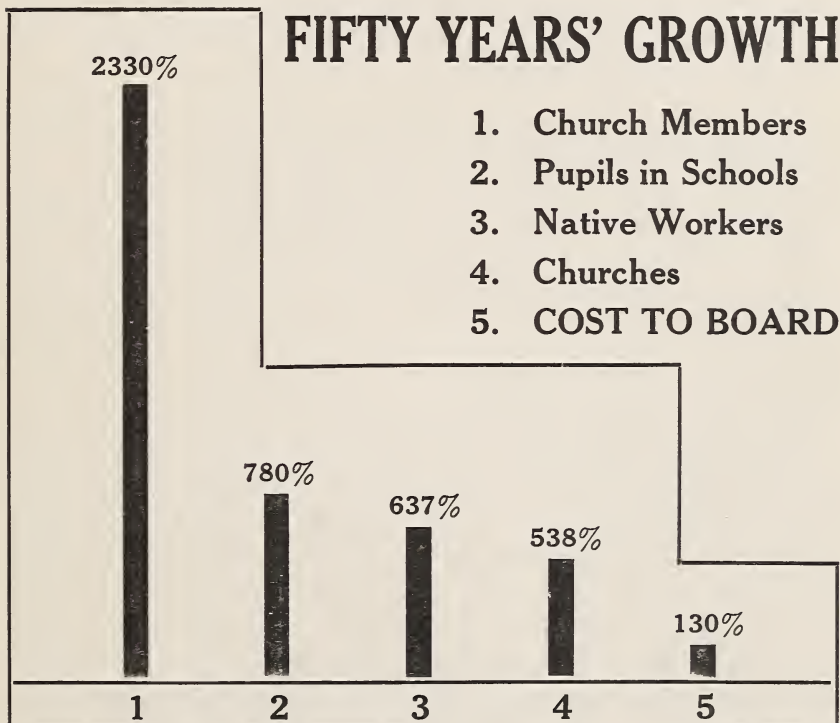
The first and last reason for believing in world missions is Christ. He has poured into our lives everything worth living for. He makes us understand and love God, our fellow men and ourselves. His character is the only full ideal we will ever know. The more we learn from Him and the more devotedly we love Him, the more reasonable it seems that the world needs only Him. If we find peace, and satisfaction in surrendering our hearts to His control, the surest result is that we want others to know Him too. If ever the comfort of faith and the consolation of hope have drawn us safely through a valley of shadows, we deeply know that others need Him. I have never known one rich Christian character, manifesting real fellowship with the living Christ, that argued devil worship and idolatry to be good enough for the children of God anywhere. Have you? Or did you ever find one person who loved his marked Bible and who knew what a power answered prayer might be that doubted whether Jesus lived and died to save *all* men out of every nation? Do you not really believe that indifference to a famine in China, to a massacre in Turkey, to the degraded condition of woman in India is proof positive of a heart that is stranger to the secret of His presence?

No more striking test of our own devotion or of the deep reality of our Christian life could ever come to us than to be asked what experiences of Christ we cherish that are worth telling to a village in China or India. Suppose you were the only Christian left alive in the midst

of idolatry and fetichism. Have you enough of Christ in your heart to win the world back toward His truth? We do not apply the argument to the extreme but those who rejoice in Christ are sure that he wanted to win the whole world. We recognize that other folks also are meant to be the children of God; that it was the world that God so loved; and that the Master of men still raises His eyes toward "the other cities also."

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**CAN YOU BEAT THIS INVESTMENT?**

## The Home Base — An Added Satisfaction.

There remains one other reason for your supporting this work. All that has been said proves that the missionary enterprise is possible and is successful beyond all dreams. Can we hope, in addition, that the American Board is as wise and strong and faithful an organization as you can possibly find to use your money?

Well, first of all it *ought* to be for it is the oldest Board in America. If any one does not know that its hundredth birthday was celebrated in Boston last year, please raise your hand. If it makes mistakes, it's old enough to know better.

The "Board" is really a group of about four hundred and fifty corporate members who control its policy. The Prudential Committee of twelve men meet almost every Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock, in the Congregational House, Boston, to direct its work. None of them receives any salary but they give their time and thought to administer the great investments of the Board and to guide the missions abroad. The officers or secretaries only carry out the directions of this Committee.

The land, buildings, and equipment on foreign fields reach a total value of over four millions of dollars and the invested funds are almost as huge an amount. So the enterprise equals in magnitude a strong bank, a great business house, or an insurance company.

The three Woman's Boards carry on their own work, raise their separate funds and support their own schools and hospitals. Without their help, the American Board would have to cut its work in half for the figures always include the work of all.



Those who leave money to the Board in their wills know that it will be used with the maximum of wisdom and fidelity. Many people make large gifts with the understanding that they are to receive the income until their death and in this way they find the safest possible investment and when they need it no longer, their gifts advance the Kingdom through all time.

The dollar or the thousand dollars you invest in missions through the Board brings a return impossible to equal. Twelve dollars supports a boy or girl in a school. Thirty dollars supports a native teacher or preacher for a year. One hundred dollars will sometimes make possible the building of a church. A thousand dollars would found a dispensary or support a missionary family. Every dollar that goes out into the work in the Orient has a purchasing power tenfold greater than in this land and its spiritual return is in still greater ratio because of strategic investment at a time of crisis and in a place of vital need.

And now the closing word shall not be an appeal or an argument, but a message of thankfulness that shall draw us all together in the fellowship of a great cause. God has trusted us with the work for which He sent His Son into life and unto death. He has blessed every prayer, gift, or life that has been offered. You and I have been helped by every service we have rendered for those who await the coming of Light in their darkness. Let us be glad that we share this service. It is the deepest privilege life gives. Christ thought so—"even unto death."

## An Old Story In New Form.

A millionaire lay dying. He summoned his lawyer. "Can you draw my will so that no penny of my fortune shall ever leave this country?" he asked. "Easy enough," answered the lawyer, "Leave it all to foreign missions." This old point usually appears in the form "It takes a dollar to send a dollar."

This ought to be easy to answer, for it is merely a question of fact. Some Boards are fortunate in having special funds from which all home expenses are met, so that they can report that not one dollar contributed for the work is spent in this country. We hope most earnestly that the American Board some day can say the same.

*The home end of the American Board's work costs 10% of its income.* Ninety per cent is spent outside of the country and on the field. But analyze what is included in this "home expense;" printed matter used to arouse missionary interest, traveling expenses of secretaries and missionaries sent at the definite request of churches, rentals, clerk hire, large sums for postage. This is all money saved to the churches which they must otherwise spend. Every account is carefully audited and scrutinized by a committee of business men and by the Prudential Committee composed of twelve men, serving absolutely without salary. Are there many lines of business which can show a smaller percentage for total administration? On the other hand no work in the world can show so much result for the small amount invested by the churches.

## Fragments.

Missionaries have been the fore-runners of civilization ; opening new countries to trade, reducing scores of languages to writing, translating school books and the Bible, exploring the corners of the earth.

Oriental ports and cities are often centers of vice. Shall American saloons and dives be protected by our flag and our ships carry firearms and whiskey uncriticized while the missionary alone be charged with interference and intrusion ?

Eastern nations gladly receive the by-products of Christianity such as education, tools, machines and arms. Is it absurd to try to send with these the one thing which makes the West the world's true teacher—Christian character ?

America is not perfect. No one claims it is. The needs of the slums in our cities, the unsolved race problem, the waves of immigration flooding our shores, the graft and corruption in politics are black blots on our record as a Christian nation but they do not make up an argument against our trying to obey the commands of Christ and to practice whatever Christianity we have by helping other nations even worse off. At least our churches do not support and profit by the corruption of two hundred thousand temple dancing girls nor champion immorality as the ideal of religion. We strive to overcome evil and to share every virtue and strength with other nations struggling toward righteousness.

## Program— “Scouting for the Enemy.”

Purpose— To state all the possible objections to foreign missions in order to answer them.  
“To give a reason for the faith that is in us.”

1. OPENING SONG SERVICE. Use stirring hymns to awaken loyalty.
2. DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS. Ask four persons to read one verse each and to suggest a “nugget” of thought. Pray for definite fields and missionaries.
3. LOCATING THE ENEMY. A large blackboard at front of room. One person prepared to write. Divide into four sections under words (a) Theological; (b) National; (c) Practical; (d) Personal. Ask members to name and urge every objection ever heard against missions. List under proper word. Reduce each to brief phrase. (See below.) Take care to be fair-minded and broad. Don't deride.
4. SHELLING THE FORTRESS. Have four persons prepared to answer the four groups of objections. Use the material of this booklet. Ask others to suggest more answers. If any doubts remain, write them out as unanswered and ask pastor to answer in next meeting.
5. REVIEWING THE FIELD. Go over each group and ask some other member to restate briefly the points made. This will clinch the nail.
6. CLOSING SERVICE. With prayer for the indifferent and for our increased devotion.

Note.—The following phrases are suggested as possible summaries of the objections that will appear. If no one mentions them, some one might be prepared to bring them forward.

Theological—“Their religion is good enough for them.” “The heathen will get another chance.”

National—“Danger of yellow peril if we civilize them.” “Too much need at home.” “Can't spare any Christianity.”

Practical—“Waste of men and money.” “Nothing accomplished.” “Badly managed. Takes a dollar to send a dollar.”

Personal—“I'm not interested.” “They never appealed to me.”

If you use this program, please report it to the author.

If unusual interest is aroused, possibly ask pastor to base a prayer meeting on the same topic.

## *The New Picture Post Cards*

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THE Board has prepared a new set of eight cards printed in sepia brown and soft gray by a new process. The pictures illustrate different countries and types of work and have been chosen for their unusual interest. The price is on rock bottom so that you may use them freely in your classes or to send to friends. The set is only ten cents. Don't order merely one set but spread them freely. The sets will not be broken. Order from any district office.

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### TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Form a Reading Circle of your S. S. class or C. E. members. Enroll those who will read it carefully. Send for enough to go round. After the reading work up the program and then urge others to carry out the plan in their classes.

The best use of literature is to plan to hand out a leaflet every month after creating a real interest in it by telling its best incident. If you will send postage we can forward copies of the "News Bulletin," "The New Era," "Our Far Flung Battle Line" (with six pictures). Please use wisely.

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☛ We want your subscription to this Envelope Series and several others for your friends, at ten cents a year (four numbers)—if you like the idea.

SEND A DOLLAR AND TEN NAMES

# New Illustrated Lectures

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We send the slides and the printed lecture free.  
You "pay the freight" and stir missionary interest.

Just ready—"Where spicy breezes blow soft  
o'er Ceylon's isle."

"Madura and its Missions"  
and forty other sets

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Programs for every sort of occasion. Literature  
on every topic and land.

Centennial Medals for Sunday School  
children who help our work.

*Are your missionary meetings in a rut?*

WRITE THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

# American Board Publications

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## Missionary Herald

Published monthly. Contains latest information from all our missions. 75 cents' per year. In clubs of ten or more, 50 cents each. Essential for those who would keep informed in regard to the work of our Foreign Missions and the great religious movements in non-Christian lands.

## The Centennial Report

To celebrate this somewhat rare event of a one hundredth birthday, the annual report was enlarged and filled with fifty cuts and maps in colors. It should be widely purchased and read. Price, 25 cents.

## American Board Almanac of Missions, 1911

Single copies, ten cents; twelve copies to one address, one dollar.

## "The Story of the American Board"

BY WILLIAM E. STRONG.

The new history of the Board, completing the full century, just printed, should go into every pastor's library and every Young People's Society. Over five hundred pages, with sixteen new maps, forty portraits, etc. \$1.75 net, postage, 18 cents.

*Literature and Leaflets of the American Board may be had by addressing:*

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